

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1315

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7719

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BR, PE

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO REMOVAL OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO

1. DESPITE HEAVY COMPETITION FROM EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, BRAZILIAN PRESS GAVE SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE TO REMOVAL OF GENERAL VELASCO, WITH SOME PAPERS RUNNING FULL PAGE OR MORE OF CURRENT AND RETROSPECTIVE MATERIAL ON PERU. THERE WERE SOME ABERRATIONS IN THRUST OF COVERAGE: ONE WIRE-SERVICE ACCOUNT FROM LIMA REPORTED OPINION IN LA CIRCLES AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONUAGE MEANT A TURN TO THE LEFT, AND FOREIGN-AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR NEWTON CARLOS SUBMITTED TWO COLUMNS FROM LIMA THAT CAME TO NO POINT AT ALL. OVERALL, HOWEVER, THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CHANGE HAD BEEN PEACEFUL AND EVEN EASY, THAT THE "HARD" VELASCO HAD BEEN REPLACED BY THE "MODERATE" MORALES BERMUDEZ, THAT THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION ITSELF WOULD NOT CHANGE, BUT THAT A MORE MODERATE STYLE WOULD EVERGE, WITH CONSEQUENT IMPOROVEMENT IN PERUVIAN-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS.

2. ON THE LATTER POINT, DIFFERENT PAPERS HAD DIFFERENT RESULTS IN GETTING QUOTES FROM GOB OFFICIALS. ALL HAD THE LINE THAT THE GOB WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE CHANGE, AND ALL EXPRESSED SOME EXPECTATION THAT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR IMPROVED PERUVIAN-BRILXILIAN RELATIONS. MOST EXTREME WAS THE JORNAL DE BRASILIA, WHICH UNDER THE FRONT-PAGE SUB-HEADLINE "BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES FALL OF GENERAL ALVARADO (SIC)" QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED "GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES" AS CALLING MORALES' ACCESSION "GOOD
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FOR US".

3.THE JORNAL'S TREATMENT CAUSED SOME COMMENT BUT NO DENIALS IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES HERE. THE PERUVIAN DCM, IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, REFERRED TO IT GOOD-NATUREDLY AND SAID THAT WHILE HE EXPECTED THE SUBSTANCE OF PERUVIAN-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS TO REMAIN THE SAME, THE ATMOSPHERE SHOULD INDEED IMPROVE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S POLITICAL ADVISOR TOOK VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL LINE WITH EMBOFF, NOTING THAT PROCESS OF IMPROVEMENT HAD BEGUN WITH VISIT OF DE LA FLOR AT TIME WHEN MORALES WAS BEGINNING TO EXERCISE INCREASING CONTROL OVER GOP. HE ALSO REFERRED TO INDICATIONS THAT MORALES AND DE LA FLOR DID NOT GET ALONG AND THAT LATTER WOULD SOON BE REPLACED. (NOTE: PERUVIAN EMBASSY HERE APPARENTLY EXPECTS DE LA FLOR TO BE REPLACED SOON BY A CIVILIAN.)
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